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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT



AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION
IN THE MIDDLE EAST



TCS-20174/69

JULY 1969

COPY 120

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WARNING

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SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

25X6 Since the June 1967 war, the Arab states have embarked on an airfield construction program to reduce the vulnerability of their air forces to an air attack. The principal features of this program have been the construction of new airfields, the improvement of existing fields, and the construction of hangarettas at most major airfields. [REDACTED]

INTRODUCTION

25X1D This report presents information regarding construction of new airfields and expansion of existing airfields and aircraft facilities in Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, [REDACTED]

25X9 Features on hangarette construction given in this report reflect only confirmed structures and are derived exclusively from KEYHOLE photography, the latest used being that of [REDACTED] Acquisition of photography of better interpretability, and the suspension of hangarette construction at certain airfields, notably in Syria, have in a few instances reduced the total number of hangarettas previously reported. This report, therefore, supersedes TCS-20383/68, Airfield Construction in the Middle East, June 1967 to October 1968, November 1968, which should be destroyed.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

Vulnerability of Arab air forces to air attack was illustrated during the June 1967 war when large numbers of aircraft were destroyed on the ground. Following the war, the Arab states initiated a program designed to increase protection of their aircraft from air attack.

25X9 In order to provide a broader dispersal of aircraft and to replace the Sinai airfields [REDACTED] seven new airfields have been constructed in Egypt, 25X9 three in Syria, three in Iraq, and two in Jordan. In addition, portions of highways in Egypt, Iraq, and Jordan have been converted for use as airstrips. [REDACTED]

25X9 [REDACTED] The new airfields and highway airstrips are listed in Table 1, which is keyed to Figure 1.

To provide for the dispersal of aircraft at existing airfields and accommodate high performance aircraft, new runways have been constructed or existing runways have been extended at 13 airfields in Egypt, seven in Syria, three in Iraq, [REDACTED]

25X9 In addition, to protect their aircraft from strafing and bombing, at least 713 hangarettas, capable of accommodating at least 791 aircraft, have been constructed at 45 Arab airfields since June 1967. Most hangarettas at Arab airfields have single

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Table 1. Airfield Construction and Runway Extensions, June 1967-April 1969
(New airfields and new highway airstrips are underlined.)

Item	Airfield	BE Number	Construction Status	Item	Airfield	BE Number	Construction Status
EGYPT				SYRIA			
1	<u>Jiyanklis New</u>		New airfield & new runway added	25	Jirah		Runway extension
2	<u>El Rahmaniya</u>		New airfield	29	Dayr Az Zawr		New runway & runway extension ucon
3	<u>El Mansura</u>		New runway ucon & runway extended	30	Hamah		Runway extension
4	<u>As Salhiyah</u>		New airfield	31	Al Qusayr		Runway extended
5	<u>Hama</u>		New airfield	32	Tiyas		Parallel runway or widened runway ucon
6	<u>Quweisna</u>		New runway	33	Palmyra		Reconstructed
7	<u>Zagazig</u>		New airfield	34	<u>An Nasiriyah (Jayrud)</u>		New airfield
8	<u>Minshat Sabri Highway Airstrip</u>		New highway airstrip	35	<u>Damascus</u>		New runway
9	<u>Bilbeis</u>		New runway & runway extended	36	<u>Jarba (Damascus East)</u>		New airfield
10	Cairo West		New runway & runway extended	37	<u>Kholkhole</u>		New airfield
11	<u>Tukh Highway Airstrip</u>		New highway airstrip	IRAQ			
12	<u>Inchas</u>		New runway ucon	38	Qayyarah South		Runway extension
13	<u>Wadi Al Jandaj</u>		New airfield	39	<u>H-3 Northwest</u>		New airfield
14	<u>Faiyum</u>		New airfield	40	<u>H-3 Northeast</u>		New airfield
15	<u>Beni Suef</u>		New runway ucon	41	<u>Habbaniyah</u>		Runway extension
16	<u>Ras Gharib</u>		Runway extended & surfaced	42	<u>ilabbaniyah Plateau</u>		Two new runways
17	<u>Hurghada New</u>		New runway ucon	43	<u>H-3 Highway Airstrip</u>		New highway airstrip
18	<u>New Valley</u>		Runway extended	44	<u>H-3 Southwest</u>		New airfield
19	<u>Daraw</u>		Runway extended	45	<u>H-4 New</u>		New airfield
20	<u>Aswan Dam</u>		Runway extension ucon	46	<u>Wadi El Murbah Highway Airstrip</u>		New highway airstrip
21	<u>Ras Banas</u>		New runway	47	<u>Kuwayshid</u>		New airfield

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Table 2. Hangar Construction
June 1967 - April 1969

Item	Airfield	BE Number	Number of Hangarettes	Number of Bays	Item	Airfield	BE Number	Number of Hangarettes	Number of Bays
EGYPT					SYRIA				
1	Cairo West		34	Single	30	Damascus		12	Single
2	Kapd Daud		1	Single				5	Double
3	Jiyanklis New		13	Single	31	Marj Rhayal		15	Single
			1	Probably single				2	Double
			10	Double	32	Dumayr		13	Single
			3	Large shelters				8	Double
4	El Rahmaniya		13	Single				(13)	Single (pre-war)
			4	Double	33	An Nasiriyah (Jayrud)		5	Single
5	Birma		6	Single				2	Double
			1	Double	34	Sayqal		2	Single
			1	Probably double				5	Single (pre-war)
6	Quweisna		13	Single				1	Double
			2	Double	35	Tiyas		16	Single
			2	Triple				6	Double
7	Minshat Sabri Highway Airstrip		4	Single	36	Al Qusayr		12	Single
8	El Mansura		32	Single				1	Double
			6	Double	37	Hamah		7	Single
			1	Triple	38	Alcppo		5	Single
9	Tust Highway Airstrip		1	Single				2	Double
10	Bilbeis		37	Single				(3)	Single (pre-war)
			2	Double	39	Rasin El Aboudi		10	Single
11	Zagazig		16	Single				1	Double
			2	Double	40	Jirah		10	Single
12	Abu Suweir		15	Single				1	Double
13	Fayid		10	Single	41	Dayr Az Zawr		12	Single
			3	Double				2	Double
14	Inchas		44	Single	IRAQ				
15	Wadi Al Jandali		12	Single	42	Mosul		8	Single
16	Cairo Almaza		27	Single	43	Kirkuk Military		10	Single
			1	Double	44	Rashid		10	Single
17	Qaha/Qalyub high-way Airstrip		4	Single	45	Habbaniyah Plateau		16	Single
18	Helwan		21	Single	46	H-3 Northwest		8	Single
19	Beni Suef		32	Single	47	H-3		8	Single
20	Faiyum		16	Single				4	Double
			2	Double	48	H-3 Southwest		5	Single
21	Hurghada New		16	Single					
22	Ras Banna		14	Single	49	Ruwayshid		8	Single
			1	Double	50	H-4 New		5	Single
23	Daraw		15	Single					
			1	Double					
24	Aswan Dam		15	Single					

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bays, but some are double- or triple-bay hangarettas, and two Egyptian fields have large aircraft shelters. Not only do the hangarettas provide physical protection for the aircraft, they also conceal aircraft from visual and photographic reconnaissance. In Egypt, at least 469 hangarettas have been constructed with spaces for at least 512 aircraft; in Syria, 156 have been built with spaces for at least 187 aircraft; in Iraq, 68 single-bay hangarettas and four double-bay hangarettas have been constructed with spaces for 76 aircraft; and in Jordan 16 single-bay hangarettas have been built. Figure 2 (keyed to Table 2) shows the locations of these hangarettas. With the exception of six large shelters in Egypt, the hangarettas built in the Middle East are only capable of housing fighter aircraft. The six recently identified shelters at Aswan Dam Airfield and Jiyanklis New Airfield in Egypt are large enough to accommodate BADGER bomber aircraft.

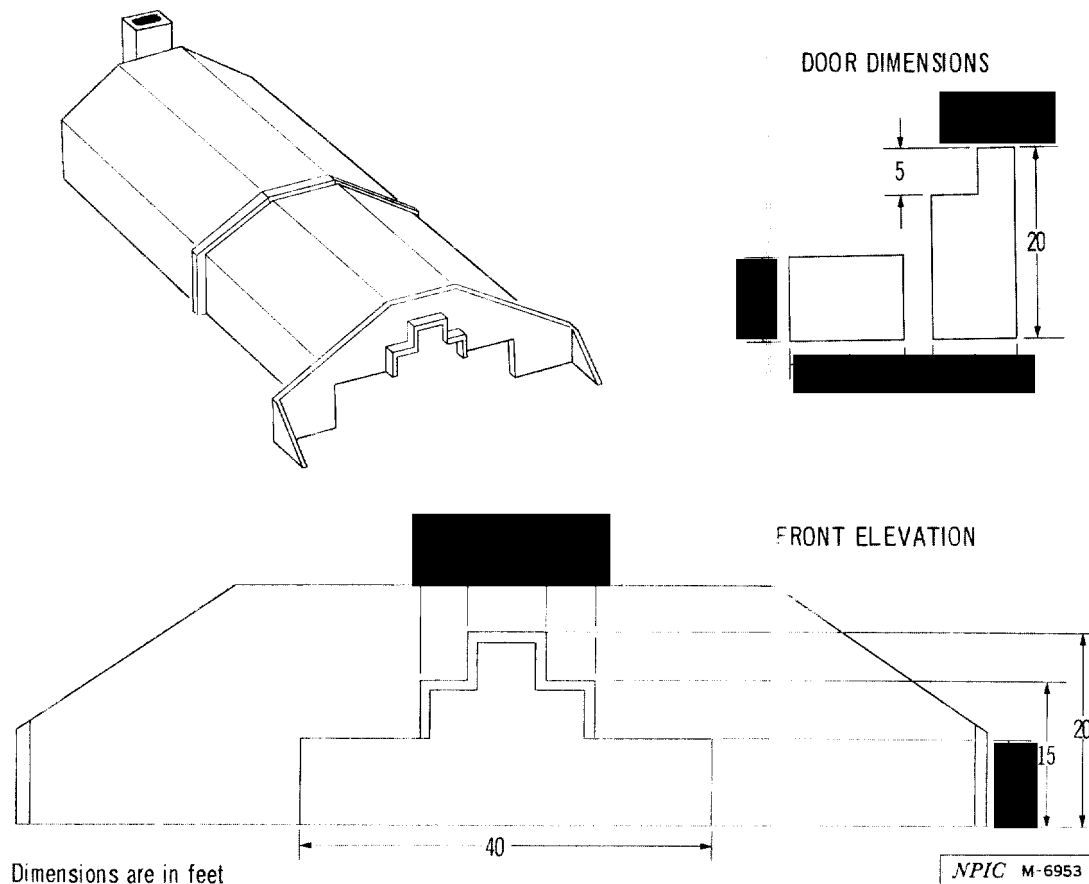


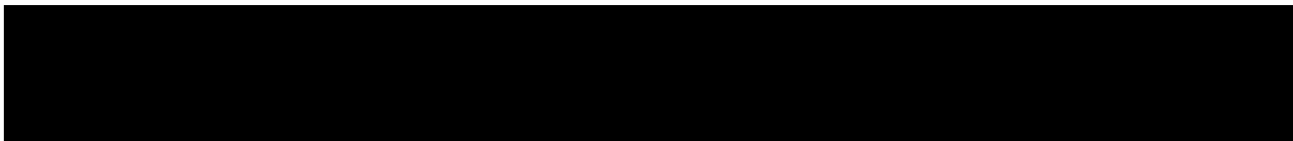
FIGURE 3. TYPICAL EGYPTIAN HANGARETTE



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A typical Egyptian hangarett is shown in Figure 3. Dimensions on hangarett entrances and doors correspond to those given  Hangarett Construction at Specified Airfields, Egypt,¹ except that the sliding doors appear to be more nearly . The system used for opening these prefabricated, solid, probably concrete doors is not known.

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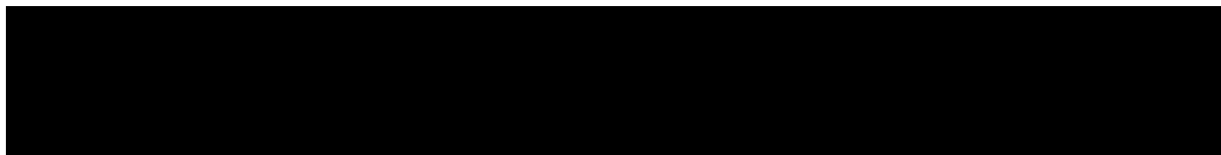
Jiyanklis Airfield (Figure 4) typifies the activity apparent at a number of airfields: it is a new airfield to which an additional runway has been added, it has hangarettes, and it has large aircraft shelters.

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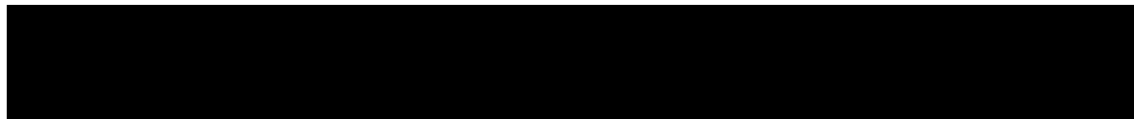
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25X1C



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